

The claims have been replaced to place the application in better form for examination. It will be understood that the intended scope of the claims has not changed, let alone narrowed, by this Preliminary Amendment. Rather, the claims have been amended to improve their form and thus facilitate prosecution of this application. Accordingly, those seeking to interpret these claims should not limit them only to their literal scopes. No new matter has been added. Favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Michael I Crowley

Registration No. 49,009

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (919) 941-9240

Dated: AUGUST 6, 2002